National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Greater Jacksonville Chapter

Saturday, June 1, 2024

Riverside Presbyterian Apartments

1045 Oak St

Jacksonville, FL 32204, in the first-floor lounge, & on Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM.

Introductions

In attendance:

Vice President: Denise Valkema

Secretary: Fallon Minichiello

Treasurer: Russ Davis

Board Member: Marty Miller

Board Member: Adriann Keve

Members: Andy Rood, John Lennon, Vicky Lennon, Jason Keve, Bob Ivey, Latoya Kendrick, Cheryl Spencer, Sarah Jacobs, Bob Randall, Cathy Randall.

Visitor: Peggy Fleischer

NFB Pledge, and One Minute Message – Recited by All: Andy recited the pledge, and Russ recited the 1 minute message.

Approval of the May Secretary’s report – Fallon: Russ motioned to accept the secretary’s report as distributed. Adriann seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of the May Treasurer’s report – Russ: Russ was not able to complete the report until today since it is June 1st. Fallon emailed it out to the chapter before the meeting. The beginning balance of the chapter’s checking account = $2,559.07, and the ending balance in the chapter’s checking account = $2,170.18. The beginning and ending balances in the chapter’s savings account = $100.00. For PayPal, the beginning balance = $93.66, and the ending balance = $77.67. At the time of the meeting, there are 23 paid members. We have also caught up with our affiliate PAC plan donations. Russ will do an audit before next month to make sure we are caught up with our donations. Russ also bought the Visa gift cards for our fundraiser for national convention.. Adriann accepted the treasurer’s report as read. Latoya seconded. The motion passed.

Be My AI Presentation and demonstration – Russ: AI is all the rage now. Have you been wondering how it can help the blind? Come and see a demonstration of this great app. Learn how after only a short time, AI is beginning to be a game changer for blind people. Russ began with a short history of apps that are in both the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store that tell you what your phone’s camera sees. Russ discussed Seeing AI, which at the time of the meeting could describe short text, documents, products, barcodes, people, currency, and scenes. Russ also discussed Aira, where for a fee, virtual assistants can tell you what your phone’s camera sees. Russ also discussed Be My Eyes which has several features. Russ focused on the following tabs: get support, where you can call a volunteer who will tell you what your phone’s camera sees, Be My AI, where AI will tell you what your phone’s camera sees without talking to a volunteer, such as products, letters, papers, objects, colors, and scenes; you can also ask it for more details as well, and service directory, which contains various service directories for organizations such as American Airlines or NFB Newsline. Russ took pictures of the room he was in as well as the living room for the place he was staying which Be My AI described. Russ, along with various members, described their experiences with both Seeing AI and Be My Eyes. The founder of Be My Eyes Hans Jorgen Wiberg described the app in more detail when he was on the fourth anniversary Sunrise and Shine call which occurred on April 11. There is also now a desktop app for Windows. Bob Randall asked if the app keeps any information. Russ advised he has been told that it does not but that it is not advised to upload sensitive information. Latoya asked if there is a page of apps in the Apple App Store regarding these apps or if there was a Web site that has them. Peggy advised of [www.applevis.com](http://www.applevis.com) which contains app directories for various apps such as these among many others. Denise concluded the presentation by advising that we will be working on having different meeting topics in the future to make our meetings more interesting. Cathy suggested an iPhone class. Denise and Fallon advised this is something that the board discussed doing on a separate Saturday where experienced iPhone users work with inexperienced iPhone users. Cathy also suggested the meeting topic of how to use Alexa for cooking directions.

Chapter and Affiliate Fundraisers are here! Our Chapter raffle tickets have arrived, and you can buy and sell them even if you are not attending convention. Russ described the raffle tickets we purchased. For our fundraiser for national convention, which is the Great Jacksonville Jackpot. We are selling 1 raffle ticket for $2 and 3 raffle tickets for $5. Russ has offered to work with anyone that is not going to national convention to purchase tickets. We have already sold several raffle tickets.

Amending our constitution (first reading of article to be amended: Currently, our constitution states that a “majority” of all chapter members must be in attendance in order for us to transact business.  This statement binds us in such a way that if less than 13 of our members are not present at any given meeting, we are unable to transact any business. Kaye emailed the Constitution with the proposed amendment included to the chapter before the meeting as follows:

**ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS**

**Section One - Regular Meetings**

This organization shall hold regular meetings at a time and place to be determined by the membership. A majority of the active members must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business.

(Amendment) This organization shall hold regular meetings at a time and place to be determined by the membership.

(End of amendment)

The next reading will be at our August meeting. Andy asked if this change would be approved by state and national. Denise and Fallon advised Camille, who was at our last board meeting where the amendment was proposed, advised there are other chapters that do not even have quorums and percentages of members in their Constitution. And does not foresee any issues with this amendment being approved. Russ advised other Constitutions in other affiliates are moving toward what we are doing. Russ wanted to know if national approved our current Constitution. Denise advised that it has been approved.

Events Committee Report – Denise: The events committee had an open meeting on May 19 and discussed events throughout the year as follows:

May 30th: senior expo

June 14th: bowling with Brooks Adaptive Sports from 5:30-7:30 PM: Denise described the event in more detail. If anyone needs help with registration, please let Denise know. Spouses can Also be registered. Brooks also built a new rail and would like feedback regarding it.

June 20th: sip & Stroll 5 PM - 9 PM: Latoya described the event in more detail.

July : Mosh Museum tour. We will need to check to make sure there is not a children’s tour going on at that time. We would eat at a restaurant afterwords. If we are unable to tour at the Mosh Museum, the Cummer Museum would be an alternate. Latoya alls suggested the Firefighter and Police Museum.

August Boat trip: Sunset Cruise $22 per person leaving from the Doubletree 7:30 PM on Wednesday-Sunday

Sept 2nd: Brunch at Jax Beach brunch House We would also possibly attend Jax beach country fest. Latoya found out during the meeting that Jax Country Fest is actually occurring on June 2nd and states to let her know if anyone would want to go with her.

October 5: Heart Walk

7:30am Festival Area Opens  
9:00am Walk begins

The walk would occur at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds located at 510 Fairgrounds Place

Friday, October 11: White cane event which we would be charge of and inform JSO what we would need during the event. Kaye is putting together a White Cane Committee to put on the event. Latoya was appointed to the committee.

October 19: Breast Cancer walk

November: We would put on a Possibilities Fair. We also discussed going to the Jacksonville Fair that will occur sometime in November.

Anytime: Idea for event using JTA bus from terminal

First Wednesday of every month: Art Walk which Latoya described in more detail.

The next meeting for the events committee will be June 16 at 7:00 PM. If anyone has any suggestions for events, please let Denise know.

Final thoughts and next meeting date: Bob Ivey advised of a Ham Radio Field Day on June 22 and 23 at Hogan Baptist Church and is a public event. Russ, Andy, and Bob Ivey are Ham radio operators. Our next meeting will be on August 3 at 10:00 AM at the Riverside Presbyterian Apartments ant on zoom. On May 31, JTA had an event for Autonomous Vehicle Day. Several of our members attended and gave their feedback regarding the event. Russ advised June 10 will be the next JTAC meeting at the JTRC where the CEO Nathaniel Ford ill be in attendance and encouraged members to attend and give their feedback regarding JTA. Our chapter has the second shift at our affiliate’s Exhibit Hall table at National Convention on July 3 from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. Kaye is asking for volunteers for the affiliate’s hospitality suite, and Peggy is asking for volunteers for the affiliate’s information table.

Adriann motioned to adjourn the meeting. Andy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 AM.